

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A housing for protectively shielding a control sensor from harsh work  
2 environments, the housing comprising an enclosure having a sensing area that is  
3 transparent to electromagnetic waves, and a laminate, the laminate operatively attached  
4 to the sensing area of the housing in an overlaying relation, the laminate having  
5 sufficient thickness to effectively protect the sensing area from harsh work environments  
6 while allowing a control sensor to operate therethrough in a normal fashion.
- 1 2. The housing of claim 1, wherein the sensing area is comprised of a non-metallic  
2 material.
- 1 3. The housing of claim 2, wherein the non-metallic material is selected from the  
2 group consisting of thermoplastic and thermoset materials.
- 1 4. The housing of claim 2, wherein the non-metallic material is nylon.
- 1 5. The housing of claim 2, wherein the non-metallic material is polyvinylidene  
2 fluoride.
- 1 6. The housing of claim 1, wherein the laminate comprises molybdenum disulfide.
- 1 7. The housing of claim 1, wherein the laminate comprises graphite.
- 1 8. The housing of claim 1, wherein the laminate comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.
- 1 9. The housing of claim 1, wherein the laminate is a dry film lubricant.
- 1 10. The housing of claim 1, wherein the laminate is about 1 to 20 mils thick.
- 1 11. The housing of claim 1, wherein the laminate is about 1-8 mils thick.

12. The housing of claim 6, wherein the control sensor is a proximity detector.
13. The housing of claim 12, wherein the laminate further comprises graphite.
14. The housing of claim 1, wherein the laminate further comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.
15. The housing of claim 6, wherein the laminate comprises Everlube® 10026.
16. The combination of a housing and a proximity detector, the housing comprising an enclosure configured and arranged to receive a proximity detector positioned therein, the enclosure having a sensing area that is transparent to electromagnetic waves, and a laminate, the laminate operatively attached to the sensing area in an overlaying relation, the laminate having sufficient thickness to effectively protect the sensing area of the housing from harsh work environments while allowing the proximity detector to operate therethrough in a normal fashion.
17. The combination of claim 16, wherein the laminate includes molybdenum disulfide.
18. The housing of claim 16, wherein the laminate includes graphite.
19. The housing of claim 16, wherein the laminate includes polytetrafluoroethylene.
20. The housing of claim 16, wherein the laminate is a dry film lubricant.
21. The housing of claim 16, wherein the laminate is about 1 to 20 mils thick.
22. The housing of claim 16, wherein the laminate is about 1-8 mils thick.
23. The housing of claim 16, wherein the laminate is substantially the same size as

2 the sensing area of the housing.